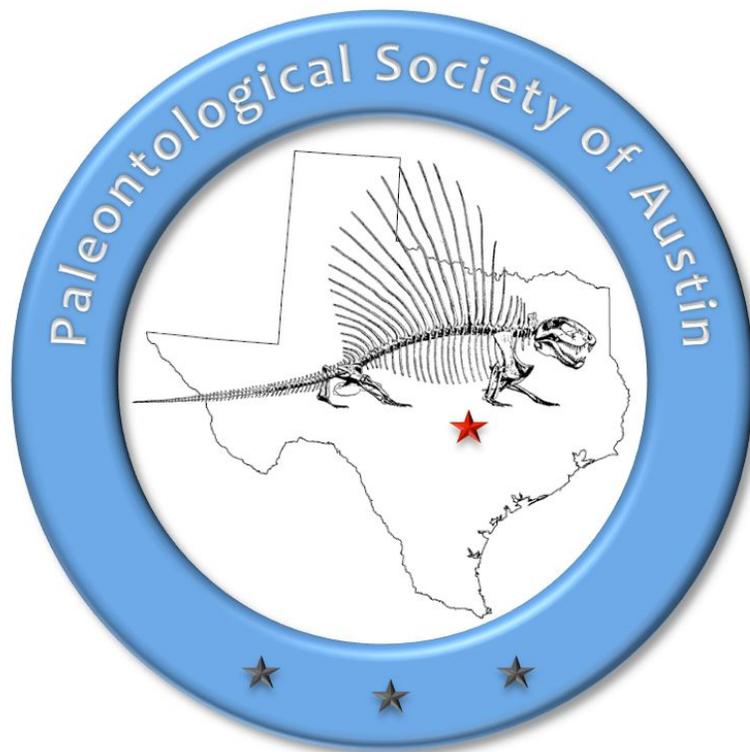


# Paleo Footnotes

Newsletter of the  
Paleontological Society of Austin

Austin and Central Texas



Volume 6, Number 3  
March 2011

## **President's Note**

I hope everyone has been enjoying the warmer weather since our February snow. There are pretty little yellow wild flowers poking their heads up in my back yard and my ferns are beginning to unfurl new leaves so, with the milder weather, I'm thinking that spring has sprung and am happy for it!

A few things have happened since last month's meeting that I'd like to share:

- Regrettably, we had to withdraw from participation in the WCGMS Gemboree show in Georgetown on Feb 19 & 20 because there were not enough people available to man the booth. I'd like to thank those few folks who did volunteer, especially mentioning Jamie Young and Suzanne Gallagher who did their best to make it happen.
- Because we could not commit to participating in the Dino Day event in Cedar Park on May 7<sup>th</sup> in a timely enough manner, WilCo Park & Rec has gone ahead and filled the space with a professor who has worked with them in the past. If anyone has the time to visit this event, I would encourage you to do so. I'm told that it could be a lot of fun, especially if you have children.

Please remember that our April meeting will be a potluck picnic held on Saturday, 4/23, at Westcave Preserve, just South of Austin. We will have a brief business meeting and our annual auction will be the program, so don't forget all the special things you've been setting aside. This is our primary fund-raiser for the year so please be generous. I believe historically the club has provided the meat and drinks and everyone brings a dish to share... other logistics we'll get ironed out during our meeting on Tuesday. For a map and other information/directions, Google Westcave Preserve. This is a beautiful site we've been able to use in the past and I'm looking forward to visiting it again.

I trust all those who went on the Jacksboro trip had a wonderful time (flat tires notwithstanding) and found lots of goodies. I look forward to hearing about the trip and perhaps seeing some of the finds at our meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

Happy hunting,

Melody

**Next Meeting**  
**Tuesday March 15, 2011**

**7:00 p.m. at the Austin Gem and Mineral Society building**  
**6719 Burnet Lane, Austin, TX**

**"Comparison of Two Mollusc-Dominated Faunas from the  
Edwards Formation of Central Texas"**

By Linda McCall

A little about Linda:

Linda attended the University of Texas from 1975-1977 and again in 1998 as a geology major. She worked as a student assistant, in the Vertebrate Paleontology Lab, in the mid 1970s cataloging specimens. Linda co-authored her first paper with Jim Sprinkle and others in 1985 based on a specimen she collected from the Bromide Formation in Oklahoma. As lead author, she presented her second co-authored paper, "*Spectacularly Preserved, Mollusc-Dominated Fauna from the Cavity Layer in the Lower Cretaceous Edwards Formation, Central Texas*" at the joint GSA/GCAGS meeting in Houston in 2008 where it was honored with the second place Grover E. Murray Best Published Paper Award. She and her co-authors are currently working on her third paper, "*Second Spectacularly Preserved, Mollusc-Dominated Fauna from the Cavity Layer in the Lower Cretaceous Edwards Formation, Central Texas*". Her current main areas of interest are Cretaceous marine ecosystems in the Austin area encompassing the Edwards and Del Rio Formations and the Austin Group. Her exhibits have won awards in several society shows, and she is active in outreach, giving lectures and helping create fossil kits for area schools.

**Next Field Trip**  
**Saturday & Sunday March 19th & 20th, 2011**

**East Texas: Eocene Sites in San Augustine & Nacogdoches Counties**

Our friend, Ron DuCote, has had a couple of cardiac surgeries and is scheduled for another. For this reason we will be unable to do a wood hunt in East Texas this year. We will, however, still be able to hunt several marine Eocene sites in San Augustine and Nacogdoches Counties. Meet in Nacogdoches at 8:00, Saturday the 19th. To get to the meeting site, go north on Bus 59 to Main St. and go east (right). Continue 8-9 blocks on E. Main (Highway 21) to University Dr. and turn left (north). Go north for several blocks and see O'Reilly Auto Parts on the right. We will caravan from there. This will be a 2-day hunt for those who wish. The first day will be principally spent in the San Augustine area, with Sunday around Nacogdoches. A large percent of what we collect will be small things, so sectional boxes are a good thing to bring. As always in East Texas, watch the weather forecast and dress accordingly.

Call or e-mail Ed Elliot for more information: 512-657-7581, edwardelliott@ymail.com

## PSA February Meeting Minutes 2/15/2011

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm.

Guest speaker, Michelle R. Stocker from university of Texas was introduced.

Michelle's presentation was "New insights into the evolution and paleobiology of the late Triassic fauna of the American southwest". Michelle's main interest is phytosaurs. These animals looked like crocodiles and were 25 to 30 feet long. Their nares were close to their eyes not on the end of their snouts like crocodiles. No fossil record of pytosaurus is found after the Triassic period. Michelle found several phytosaur fossils in the Petrified Forest area of northern Arizona.

Michelle also studied phytosaurs from Texas in Otis Chalk quarries. The WPA excavated and plaster jacketed 42 blocks of fossils. She has been working recently on one of these jackets at the Memorial Museum at the University of Texas. This jacket has an articulated specimen. This is rare as usually only the skulls are discovered. She is also screen washing the dirt around the specimen and finding many interesting micro-fossils.

A break was taken.

### Old Business

Minutes of last meeting were approved.

Current bank balance is \$22,491.01. This is \$15,000 in a savings account and 7,491.01 in a checking account.

There was a committee report of the Harker Heights field trip. Good weather and lots of fun!!

The next trip was announced. It will be in Jacksboro on Saturday and Mineral Wells on Sunday.

Ed Elliot and David Lindberg will attend the Out Reach program at the Spring Hills Elementary School.

We have the Williamson County Gem and Mineral show coming up. We only have volunteers to cover a booth until 2:00pm on Saturday, and none committed for Sunday. Jaime Young will:

- Get with Mike Smith to send an email blast asking for more volunteers
- She will cancel our participation if not enough volunteers commit

UT Invertebrate fossil lab can use more volunteers on Wednesday nights.

### New Business

A committee was formed to setup a proposed set of guidelines for granting scholarships and donations.

Members of the committee are:

- Kathleen Howard
- Melinda Falk
- Erich Rose

They will report back to the board in June or July. The Board will discuss and bring a proposal to the membership soon thereafter. Once approved this will take effect next year.

A student of Dr. Ann Molineux's, Angie Thompson, has asked for a donation to help her attend a conference. The club approved a donation of \$500.00.

At this time the club will not donate to the UT Dinosaur Track Preservation effort.

There was some discussion about buying some folding tables for the club. Renting tables will be investigated. No decisions were made.

To stop receiving a hardcopy newsletter send an email to Mike Smith or Erich Rose. See the end of the newsletter for addresses.

Door prizes were awarded.

The meeting was adjourned.

## Places to be, Things to do...

**March 19-20—LIVE OAK (SAN ANTONIO), TEXAS: 50th annual show, “Fiesta of Gems”;** San Antonio Gem & Mineral Society; Live Oak Civic Center, 8108 Pat Booker Rd.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; adults \$5, seniors \$3, students \$2, children 50 cents; 25 dealers; minerals, fossils, jewelry, gemstones, crystals, club exhibits, silent auction, games, hourly door prizes, silent auction; contact Robert Bowie, e-mail: krbotx@gvtc.com; Web site: [www.swgemandmineral.org](http://www.swgemandmineral.org)

**March 25-27—ADA, OKLAHOMA: “A Festival of Gems, Minerals & Fossils 2011”;** Ada Gem, Mineral & Fossil Club; Pontotoc County Agri-Plex, Main Bldg. #1, NE corner of state Rte. 99/U.S. 377 and the Richardson Bypass/S. Hwy. 1/3E; Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4; free admission; demonstrations, displays, fluorescent rocks, minerals, fossils, lapidary, jewelry, silent auctions, raffle Sun., kids’ fossil dig and petting zoo, dealers; contact Ed Vermillion, (405) 527-6431; e-mail: okieed42@windstream.net; Web site: [www.freewebs.com/agmfc/index.htm](http://www.freewebs.com/agmfc/index.htm)

**April 9-10—ABILENE, TEXAS: Show and sale; Central Texas Gem & Mineral Society;** Abilene Civic Center, 1100 N. 6th; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$3, children \$1.50; geode cracking, fossils, minerals, gems, jewelry, lapidary demonstrations, findings, beads, tools, supplies, rough; contact Betty Scarborough, 422 CR 606, Tuscola, TX 79562, (325) 668-2374; e-mail: [waltswife1029@yahoo.com](mailto:waltswife1029@yahoo.com); Web site: [www.txol.net/rockclub](http://www.txol.net/rockclub)

**April 15-17—ALPINE, TEXAS: Show, “Alpine Agate Festival”;** Chihuahuan Desert Gem & Mineral Club; Alpine Civic Center, Hwy. 90W and 13th St. N; Fri. 9-6, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 11-5; free admission; South Central Federation convention, grand prize, door prizes, silent auctions, field trips, kids’ corner, demo dealers; contact Mary Brogan, P.O. Box 1111, Alpine, TX 79831, (432) 386-2340; e-mail: [marybrogan@rocketmail.com](mailto:marybrogan@rocketmail.com); Web site: [www.cdgm.org](http://www.cdgm.org)

**April 16-17—WACO, TEXAS: Annual show; Waco Gem & Mineral Club;** Texas State Technical College, Industrial Tech. Bldg., Crest Dr., off I-35, north of Waco; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; adults \$5 (both days); contact Karen Wood, 2315 Colcord, Waco, TX 76707, (254) 755-7274; e-mail: [kwood@hot.rr.com](mailto:kwood@hot.rr.com); Web site: [www.wacogemandmineral.org](http://www.wacogemandmineral.org)

**April 30 - May1—LUBBOCK, TEXAS: 53rd annual gem and mineral show; Lubbock Gem & Mineral Society;** Lubbock Memorial Civic Center, 1501 Mac Davis Ln.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults (13+) \$4, seniors (65+) \$3, ages 6-12 \$2, under 6 free with adult; wire-wrapped stones, precious stones, jewelry, minerals, fossils, rough rock, dealers, demonstrators, exhibits, hourly door prizes, silent auction, grand prizes; contact Archie Scott, 2709 Belvedere Rd., Levelland, TX 79336, (806) 894-1584; e-mail: [archie.scott73@yahoo.com](mailto:archie.scott73@yahoo.com)

**May 28-29—FORT WORTH, TEXAS: 60th annual show, “Marvelous Minerals”;** Fort Worth Gem & Mineral Club; Will Rogers Memorial Center, 3401 W. Lancaster; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$5, seniors and students \$4, ages 16 and under free; more than 25 dealers, exhibits, kids’ games, door prizes, grand prize, silent auction; contact Steve Hilliard, PO Box 418, Decatur, TX 76234, (817) 925-5760; e-mail: [fwgmc@embarqmail.com](mailto:fwgmc@embarqmail.com); Web site: [www.fortworthgemandmineralclub.org](http://www.fortworthgemandmineralclub.org)

## February Field Trip Report Lake Jacksboro Spillway, Mineral Wells and Vicinity

It was a crisp 38 degrees at 7:30AM when I arrived in front of the courthouse in Jacksboro. David Lindberg was right behind me (Erich Rose) and as we awaited the rest of the crew, the bright sun promised to warm things up. By 8AM Dax Gonzalez, Terry & Hunter Collins, Earl Richards & Joni Sula and Gary & Cathy Rylander had all arrived. We gave any possible stragglers 15 minutes and then headed for the lake. We all quickly headed out across the dam for the flats on the other side. David and Gary explained that collecting would occur on the flats and Gary headed for some areas exposed by low water on the lake. Folks were quickly finding fossils and spreading out to find whatever was exposed between the tall dry grass. This being my first time I was beside myself and couldn't have been happier picking up one new thing after the other. As we collected the park department showed up just to let us know to stay off the dam's embankment, but otherwise all was good. Then a local rancher came by on his 4-wheeler and Cathy, always being warm and friendly, started a chat with him and we quickly learned that the exposures across another fence we were hesitant to cross, was actually more of the city's land and perfectly fine to collect. He even opened the gate for us (which I locked up as the last one out at 4PM) so we didn't have to climb. And with that the real collecting began!

The eroded slope and flats exposed the Finis Shale and the top was capped by the Jacksboro Limestone, both members representing the lowest units of the Graham Formation, Cisco Group. This is all late Pennsylvanian, approximately 300-303 million years old. Personally I brought home at least 4 pounds of material, mostly made up of small individual gastropods, bivalves, cephalopods, brachiopods, corals, sponges, crinoid bits, and bryozoans. Handfuls of the enigmatic *Conularia* were collected as well as coiled nautiloids. *Archeocidaris* (sea urchin) plates and spines were not uncommon and I even filled a film can with fusulinids. I would list genera & species names here if it wouldn't be a page-long list. This is one very abundant location!

Before the morning was out we were also joined by Dennis and Morgan Stock as well as David and Bobbie Mell. A few folks headed out as the afternoon went on and it got hot, but those I will fondly refer to as the "usual suspects" stuck around until after 4 when we all mossied back to the cars, refreshed ourselves with cold drinks and relaxed before either driving home or heading for the motel. Although I did not get a full accounting of everyone's best finds the screamer that day was most likely Gary's monster *Worthenia tabulata* gastropod found out on the flats below. It is at least 2 inches tall compared to the little half-inchers picked up by the rest of us. But Gary has also suggested that Cathy found at least one partial shark tooth, which is mighty cool as well.

I headed home after a full day at the spillway and the rest of the report is brought to us by Gary:

We went to the Union Hill site first---listed in the HGMS book as Strawn Group, Whitt Formation, Salesville Shale. Everyone found "floating crinoid cups"--I found several of the "wasp nest corals". After that we went to the Mineral Wells Fossil Park. Every family found trilobite pieces--best I saw were David's, but reportedly Terry found a nice one as well. I found two complete crinoid cups, one with two partial arms. David and Dennis will need to report if they saw anything else collected besides the usual Penn brachs, gastropods, etc. I don't know off-hand what the formation is at the park. The group for the day was made up of Cathy and I, David, Dennis and Morgan, Terry and Hunter, and Earl and Joni. After the Fossil Park we all started for home.

[Following photos by E. Rose from the first day at Jacksboro]



Chilly at 8AM in Jacksboro.



Fragments of large nautiloids amongst bryozoans.



Plenty of room to spread out at the spillway.



The coral *Cladochonus* sp. in shattered bits.



David popping something good into his bag while Gary scans for more.



Gary's large *Worthenia tabulata* collected on the flats at the spillway

The purpose of the **Paleontological Society of Austin**, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, is the scientific education of the public, the study and preservation of fossils and the fossil record and assistance to individual, groups and institutions interested in various aspects of paleontology.

Meetings of the **Paleontological Society of Austin** are held the third Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m. at the Austin Gem and Mineral Society building, 6719 Burnet lane, Austin, TX. The public is cordially invited to attend.

Annual Dues: \$15/individual, \$20/family and \$10/associate (non-voting, receiving newsletter) Send to: Treasurer, Paleontological Society of Austin, PO Box 90791, Austin, TX 78749-0791

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